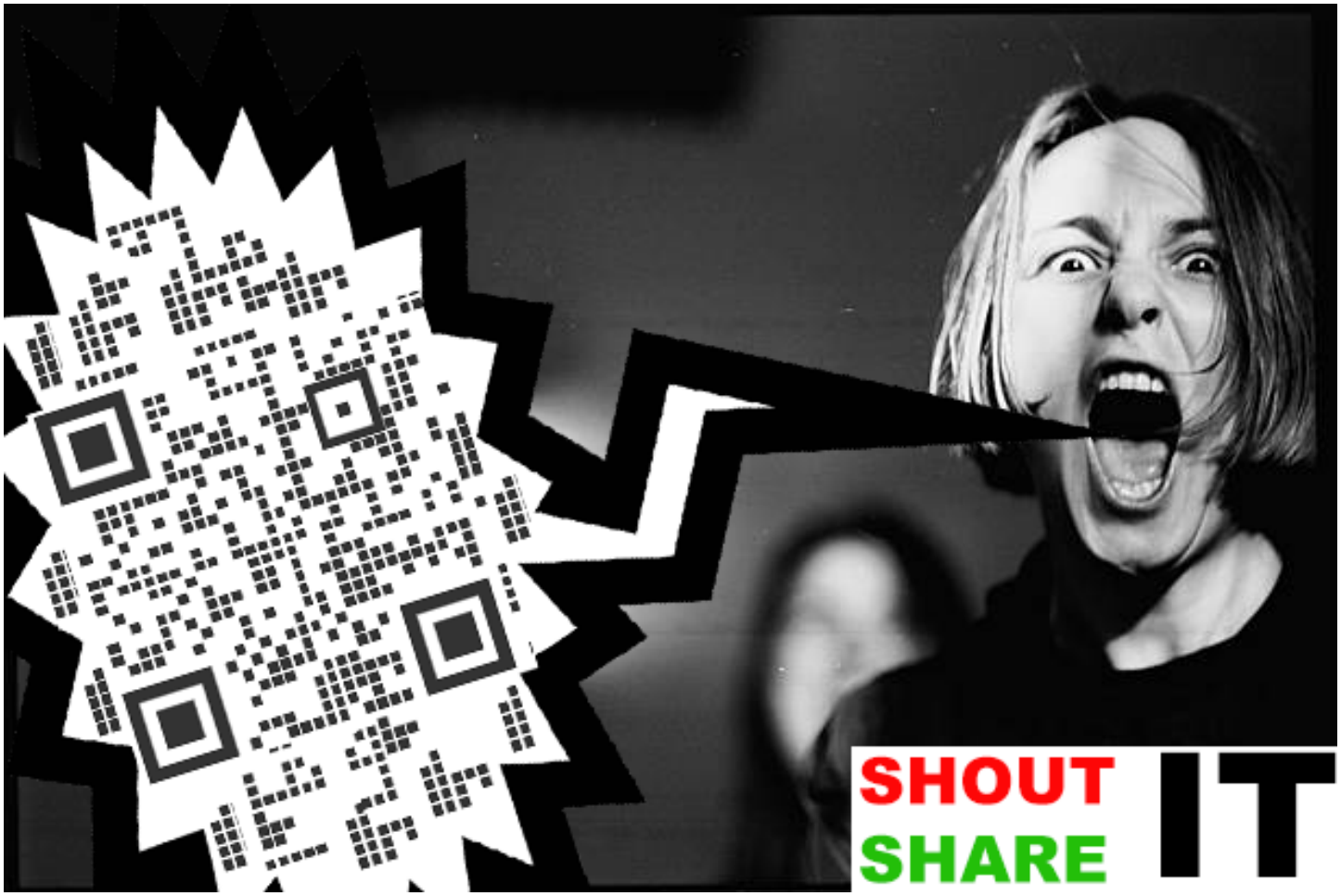
BIENNIAL REPORT

1973-75

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF ARBORETA AND BOTANIC GARDENS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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1973-75

PETER F. SCHABARUM	FIRST DISTRICT
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ERNEST E. DEBS))	THIRD DISTRICT
EDMUND D. EDELMAN)	
JAMES HAYES	FOURTH DISTRICT
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1973-75

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LOS ANGELES STATE AND COUNTY ARBORETUM

Virginia Robinson Gardens

Early in 1973, Mrs. Virginia Robinson, widow of Harry W. Robinson, president for many years of the J. W. Robinson Department stores, offered to make the people of Los Angeles County the heirs to her six-acre garden estate in Beverly Hills. The estate would be known at the "Virginia Robinson Gardens," it would become part of the Los Angeles County Department of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens, and a million-dollar endowment would be provided for maintenance of the property.

The offer was accepted and the estate officially became the property of the County on January 9, 1974. Under the provisions of the grant deed, Mrs. Robinson would maintain and remain in residence on the estate during her lifetime.

A reception and dinner to honor Mrs. Robinson for her generous gift was held September 10, 1974, in the Arboretum's Demonstration Home Gardens. Hosts of the event were Mrs. John A. Grivich, president of the California Arboretum Foundation Board of Trustees and Mr. Francis Ching, department director. Representing the Board of Supervisors was Supervisor Peter Schabarum, accompanied by Mrs. Schabarum; and William Martin, representing Supervisor Ernest Debs in whose district the property lies. A key figure in handling the legal aspects was Mrs. Robinson's attorney, Odell McConnell. It was he who arranged for a million-dollar endowment to be part of the gift, which led to the acceptance of the gardens of the Board of Supervisors. Among the 150 guests who attended the event were Mrs. Mary Richmond Bittner, president of the Board of Governors and Mrs. Rodney Rood, president of the Descanso Gardens Guild.

Tropical Greenhouse

In the spring of 1974, a contract was awarded for the construction of a 100' by 38' tropical greenhouse just west of the Arboretum orchid greenhouses. The purpose was to make possible the growing of some of the larger tropical plants and those of interest and curiosity to the public like pepper, ginger, and vanilla. The new greenhouse was completed a year later, adding a new educational dimension to the Arboretum's botanical resources. In addition to the plantings, the public was delighted with the pedestrian path that follows a winding stream the length of the greenhouse before spilling into a pool at one end.

Prehistoric Garden and Jungle

In February of 1974, the Arboretum was able to start work on the development of a prehistoric and jungle garden bordering Lasca Lagoon as a result of a $10,000 gift from the estate of a Pasadena resident, Mrs. Eleanor F. Hippler, and a donation of an extensive collection of cycads by Loran Whitelock, a private collector. The overall plan calls for a number of clearing, replanting, and conservation projects and the construction of an observation deck that will contain exhibits tracing plant evolution. The first step in the project was to enclose the entire present jungle area with a 4-foot, green, vinyl-covered chain-link fence. It is expected that the new Prehistoric and Jungle Garden will be opened to the public late in 1975 although it will take many more months to complete the project.

Anniversary Celebration

Approximately 400 members of the California Arboretum Foundation and the Arboretum staff gathered together the evening of July 13, ~~1974~~ 1973 to celebrate the Foundation's 25th Anniversary. The highlight of the celebration was the cutting of the anniversary cake by Dr. Samuel Ayres, Jr., a founder of the Arboretum, and Mrs. Ayres; Mrs. John Grivich, president of the Foundation, and Mr. Grivich; Mr. Francis Ching, department director, and Mrs. Ching.

Spring Extravaganza

On May 18 and 19, 1974, the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum staged its first "Spring Extravaganza," two of the most comprehensive horticultural field days ever attempted. With the aid of California Arboretum Foundation volunteers and fifteen garden societies, whose members manned their own booths and exhibits, practically every kind of garden demonstration, horticultural question, and environmental problem received attention. Nearly 28,000 people attended -- a record for two days -- arriving early and staying late in an effort to cover all the talks, the open house sessions in the nurseries, library, research labs and other work sections of the Arboretum.

One year later, the second Spring Extravaganza was presented, essentially a duplicate of the first and just as successful.

New Entranceway

A major part of the redevelopment plan for the Arboretum entrance was completed in this biennial period with the completion of a new, curved

vehicular road off Baldwin Avenue leading to the parking area. A fountain and pool, completely automated, have been set in the curve of the road and a triangular island just east of the recently completed Information Center was replanted with Arboretum introductions of Gazania rigens, 'Sun Gold' and 'Sun Burst' along with potentilla in the shadier areas. Six benches have been placed in this area to provide visitiors with a convenient loading, unloading and waiting zone.

Arbor Day

The idea of setting aside a day to commemorate the value of trees to the country originated in 1872 in Nebraska. Known as Arbor Day, it is now observed in every state of the Union.

In 1971, a new plan was developed at the Arboretum aimed at involving schools and students in an observance of Arbor Day that was more than ceremonial. The essence of the plan was the preparation of environmental and tree planting resource material placed in attractive folders that would be given to participating schools. Teachers would utilize the materials as the basis for classroom projects. The schools would then receive from this Department an Arbor Day tree for a tree planting ceremony on school grounds.

The plan has been very successful. In 1974, over 900 schools in 52 school districts representing a half-million students participated. A similar number took part in the Arbor Day program of March 7, 1975. The job of gathering and putting together the resource material was undertaken by the Arbor Day Committee made up of volunteers of the California Arboretum Foundation.

Attendance

Attendance increased in the second half of this biennial period by a striking 20 percent. As in the previous biennial period, this increase can be attributed to a combination of more services and special events and more intensive publicity that served to acquaint more people with the Arboretum's attractions. The effect of adverse weather on attendance is estimated to be no more than 2 to 3 percent.

1973-74	1974-75
696,951	836,933

Weather

Daily readings of temperature, rainfall, and humidity are forwarded each month to the Los Angeles County Flood Control District. In addition, the Arboretum calls in special data to the United States Weather Bureau Frost-Warning Service in Pomona daily from November 15th through February 20th from which they determine possible frost for the western San Gabriel Valley.

	1973-74	1974-75
Lowest temperature	28°-Jan. 2, 1974	25°-Jan. 29, 1975
Highest temperature	110°-July 3, 1973	105°-July 18, 1974
Total days of rainfall	26	40
Heaviest monthly rainfall	9.21" January	4.58" March
Yearly rainfall	17.56"	15.14"

EDUCATION

The scope of the Department's education programs and the numbers of people reached are reflected in the following tabulations.

Adult Education 1973-74

Day and evening classes at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, Descanso Gardens and South Coast Botanic Garden:

Classes	38
Registration	1,500
Attendance	17,121

Day and Evening Classes Offered:

Beginning Bonsai	Home Gardening, Basic
Advanced Bonsai	Home Gardening, Advanced
Vegetable Gardening	Art in Nature
Home Horticulture	Edible Wild Plants
Plant Identification	Creative Flower Arrangement
Herbs	Sketching and Painting
Container Gardening	Poisonous, Medicinal and Edible Plants

Minicourses

Classes	15
Registration	213

Adult Education 1974-75

Day and evening classes at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, Descanso Gardens, and South Coast Botanic Garden:

Classes	32
Registration	1,316
Attendance	14,680

Day and Evening Classes Offered:

Beginning Bonsai	Plant Identification
Advanced Bonsai	Poisonous, Medicinal and Edible Plants
Home Gardening, Basic	Vegetable Gardening
Home Gardening, Advanced	Container Gardening

Minicourses

Classes	17
Registration	285

Minicourses Offered:

Botany I	Terrariums
Botany II	Pruning Trees and Shrubs
Edible, Poisonous and Medicinal Plants	Holiday Decorations
Chaparral Plants	Hanging Baskets, Session I
Hydroponics: Gravel Culture	Hanging Baskets, Session II
Plant Diseases	Patio Container Gardening, Session II
Indoor Container Gardening, Session I	Plant Propagation
Indoor Container Gardening, Session II	Growing Bulbs in Containers

Youth Education 1973-74

Workshops at Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, Descanso Gardens, and South Coast Botanic Garden:

Workshops	78
Registration	906
Attendance	6,568

Subjects:

Plant Adventures	Plant Propagation
Exploring Nature	Container Gardening
Arts and Crafts in Nature	Art in Nature
Indoor Gardens	Experimenting with Plants
Gardening Skills	Bird Study
Vegetable Gardening	Life in the Lagoon
Flower Gardening	Nature Craft

Taking the Arboretum to the School

School Districts	7
Schools	55
Visits	105
Students	3,435

Youth Education 1974-75

Workshops at Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, Descanso Gardens, and South Coast Botanic Garden:

Workshops	73
Registration	921
Attendance	6,408

Subjects:

Plant Adventures	Pond Life
Experimenting with Plants	Macrame for Containers
Container Gardening	Indoor Gardens
Exploring Nature	Vegetable Gardening
Life in the Lagoon	Plant Propagation
Art in Nature	Terrariums
Nature Craft	

Taking the Arboretum to the School

School Districts	9	Visits	190
Schools	87	Students	6,440

Guided School Field Trips

	1973-74		1974-75	
	Classes	Students	Classes	Students
LASCA	326	11,616	462	15,005
Descanso Gardens	301	9,725	398	13,034
South Coast	159	3,963	210	5,678
TOTALS	786	25,304	1,070	33,717

RESEARCH

The Research Division during this biennial period has continued to be active in air pollution genetic research. 'Lasca Pink', a petunia exhibiting a considerable tolerance to ambient smog has been introduced and growers will be able to use it in their breeding programs.

Approximately 3,000 Lagerstroemia (crape myrtle) seedlings were planted as part of another breeding program to develop superior varieties that have improved flower and bark characteristics and are less susceptible to powdery mildew.

Continuing efforts to locate plants that are fire retardant and that can be used to control erosion in hillside areas have led to selections of a number of dwarf Cistus species. In particular, a selected form of Cistus crispus which has been named 'Descanso' has good potential and was used in a direct seeding project on a fuel break in the San Bernardino forest.

Continuing studies were made during this period to test many safe handling chemicals as a soil drench for the purpose of reducing Armillaria mellea infection. Several have shown promise in the laboratory.

Plant Records

Accessions of seed and other plant material received at the Arboretum during this fiscal period totaled 637. New contacts for seed exchange were established with botanical gardens in China, Japan, Zaire, Guatemala, Turkey, Yugoslavia, South Africa and India. As in previous years, surplus seed and plants were distributed throughout the Los Angeles County school system and to members of the California Arboretum Foundation.

Herbarium

Specimen acquisitions in the 1973-75 period totaled about 3,400 approximately half of which were retained for the LASCA Herbarium and the remainder designated for exchange. Herbaria receiving specimens from the Arboretum on an exchange basis include the Arnold Arboretum, Baily Hortorium, Barnes Arboretum, California Academy of Sciences, University of California at Davis, Los Angeles, and Riversid the National Arboretum, and the San Diego Museum.

The Herbarium is indebted to eight members of Las Voluntarias and a number of students from local high schools for their assistance in this period in accomplishing various herbarium duties.

Displays and Exhibits

The division prepared public exhibits on the following subjects:

Cistus - Beauty and Utility
Common Ornamental Diseases
Eucalyptus Species
Bottlebrushes
Callistemon Pachyphyllus Viridis
Ground Covers for Brush Fire Protection
Poisonous Plants Around the Home
Edible Weeds
Crape Myrtle Breeding Project
Erythrina Autecology
Herbarium
Heavy Metal Pollution

Environmental Report

At the request of the Los Angeles County Regional Planning Commission, staff members Kenneth Montgomery and Dr. Leonid Enari provided a report on the Proposed Mulholland Scenic Corridor as follows:

a. Problem analysis and suggestions relating to erosion control aspects of chaparral;

b. Preservation and enhancement of wildflower areas, mature trees, and other natural vegetation;

c. Native and exotic plants for landscaping purposes in the Mulholland Scenic Corridor, Los Angeles County.

Publications

1. Berry, Wade L. and Arthur Wallace. Trace Elements In The Environment - Their Role and Potential Toxicity As Related To Fossil Fuels. U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, Los Angeles, California, 1974.

2. Berry, Wade L. Response Curve of Developing Seedlings to Heavy Metal Toxicity. American Jour. Bot. 61(5):27. 1974.

3. Berry, Wade L. The Use of Effluent Water for Turf. Southern California Turf and Landscape Institute. 1974.

4. Berry, Wade L. Hydroponic, Principal and Guidelines. LASCA Leaves. 1974.

5. Cheo, P.C. and James E. Doty. Oak Root Rot Disease and Possible Means of Control. LASCA Leaves 24: 18-20. 1974.

6. Doty, James E. and P.C. Cheo. Light Inhibition of Thallus Growth of Armillaria mellea. Phytopathology: 64:763-764. 1974.

7. Doty, James E. Sundews. LASCA Leaves 24:32-35. 1974.

8. Enari, Leonid. Plant Portraits. Dawn Redwood at LASCA. LASCA Leaves 24:36-37. 1974.

9. Enari, Leonid. Sycamore Fig. LASCA Leaves. September, 1974.

10. Enari, Leonid. Sequoiadendron. LASCA Leaves. December, 1974.

11. Enari, Leonid. Bo Tree. LASCA Leaves. March, 1975.

12. Enari, Leonid. Ginkgo. LASCA Leaves. June, 1975.

13. Hanson, George P. and Carlos D. Jativa. Waterbush - A New Ornamental for Southern California. LASCA Leaves 24:13-17. 1974.

14. Hanson, George P. The Inheritance of Floral Characters in Camellias. The Camellia Review 35:3-10 & 16. 1974.

15. Hanson, George P. Inheritance of Air Pollution Tolerance in Petunia. Genetics 74:S107. 1973.

16. Hanson, George P., Daniel H. Addis and Linda Thorne. Smog Tolerant Petunias Developed at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum. LASCA Leaves.

17. Hanson, George P., Linda Thorne and Daniel H. Addis. The Ozone Sensitivity of Petunia Hybrida Vilm. As Related to Physiological Age. Jour. Amer. Soc. Hort. Science. 100:188-190. 1975.

18. Jativa, Carlos D. Callistemon as Landscape Subject in Southern California. LASCA Leaves 23:129-134. 1973.

19. Loescher, W. and D. J. Nevins. Turgor - Dependent Changes in Avena coleoptile Cell Wall Composition. Plant Physiol. 52:248-251.

DESCANSO GARDENS

Extensive alterations in Descanso's four-acre History of the Rose Garden were started in this biennial period. A new watering system was built, the Old Fashioned Rose Section, the largest in area, was interchanged with the Modern Rose Section, and 150 new roses were planted. The interchange was made because the development of roses in the Old Fashioned category has remained largely static for the past fifty years, whereas the Modern Rose category receives two to three hundred new varieties each year. The operation involved transplanting 2,000 roses. While they were out of the ground, a "spaghetti" watering system consisting of over 3,000 feet of 2-inch pipe was laid so as to bring to each rose bush in the grid system its individual watering line. The new watering system has saved man-hours, used less water, yet has supplied superior irrigation to the plants.

Other horticultural developments included the reconstructing and cleaning of tree basins in the Oak Forest so as to retard the growth of oak root rot fungus (Armillaria mellea), planting 150 new camellias in the camellia forest as part of a continuing program to update the collection, and planting 30 ornamental shade trees in various parts of the garden.

Principal maintenance jobs included cleaning the stream and pools of mud and silt and clearing to bare ground an area bordering a mile of property fence so as to inhibit fire from neighbors' dwellings.

Test Plots

Six hundred hybrid cistus were planted in a 3/4-acre test plot to serve as stock plants from which to collect seeds for use in the fire retardant plant program.

Attendance

1973-74	1974-75
408,010	452,861

Weather

Descanso Gardens weather charts are made available to the Los Angeles County Flood Control District.

Data for the weather season, October 1 to September 30:

	1973-74	1974-75
Lowest temperature	27°-Jan. 3	26°-Jan. 28
Highest temperature	107°-June 28	106°-Sept. 22, 23, 1975
Total days of rainfall	29	43
Heaviest monthly rainfall	10.84"-Jan. 1974	7.08"-March 1975
Yearly rainfall	20.42"	19.17"

SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN

The major development at South Coast Botanic Garden in this biennial period was the start of the construction of the two-building Administrative Center, an event marked by ground-breaking ceremonies on the morning of May 21, 1975. County Supervisor James Hayes, in whose district the garden is located, Dr. Paul Saffo, president of the South Coast Botanic Garden Foundation, Mrs. Mary Bittner, president of the Department's Board of Governors, and Francis Ching, Department Director were the speakers. Their audience included many longtime supporters of the garden, among them Alice Quiros of the South Bay Bromeliad Society; Jerry Curtis of the South Bay Herb Society; Frances Young, a garden founder; Ove Hoyer, Ed Harrison and Merrill Cate, members of the Board of Governors; Cleona Crozier, Helen Pickett, Cliff Graham, and Eugene Hillman, officers of the Foundation; and Don Hendrickson, chief architect for the project.

The design calls for connecting the two buildings with a common courtyard, one building providing office space, a seminar room and a reading room; the other consisting mainly of a 7,000-square-foot auditorium, part of which can be converted into classrooms by means of folding walls. The plans also provide for parking for 240 cars, a tram-loading area, a road connecting the new facilities to the existing road system, and a new main entrance off Crenshaw Boulevard.

To help pay for the project, the South Coast Botanic Garden contributed an immediate $20,000 to the County and pledged an additional $200,000 to be paid over the next five years.

Because it is a young garden and because it is situated on a former trash dump, landscaping at South Coast Botanic Garden is a continuing process, one that will take many years to complete. Progress in this two-year period includes the layout and planting of a deciduous fruit tree orchard, starting with 62 trees with the addition of six varieties of apple trees in the later part of the period, the completion of the conversion of nine acres of hybrid bermuda lawn into ground cover areas consisting mostly of gazanias, South African daisies, and Cape weed, construction of an annual garden at the entrance, and construction of a pedestrian bridge across the stream.

The department is careful to follow at each of its facilities the latest recommendations by federal and other governmental agencies on the use of horticultural chemicals. A recommendation by the County Agricultural Commission that use of the post-emergent herbicide, Diquat, be discontinued caused the weed abatement program at South Coast to fall behind for a time. Subsequent use of the acceptable herbicide, Phytar 560, brought the weed problem again under control.

Attendance

1973-74	1974-75
82,933	83,644

The above figures represent a 7 percent increase over those for the previous biennial period. Because South Coast is a young, developing garden located in an area of increasing population density, attendance is expected to continue to grow rapidly.

Weather

South Coast Botanic Garden weather charts are made available to the Los Angeles County Flood Control District. The garden also issues a monthly chart for Palos Verdes Peninsula.

Data for the weather season, October 1 through September 30:

	1973-74	1974-75
Lowest temperature	30°-Jan. 30, 1974	30°-Dec. 23, 1974
Highest temperature	94°-Sept. 22, June 27 May 25	102°-September 24
Total days of rainfall	30	35
Heaviest monthly rainfall	5.78-Jan. 5	6.26-Dec.
Yearly rainfall	11.92	14.92

Personnel

Imposed manpower reductions in this period reduced the number of full-time employees from 27 to 24. This manpower shortage was offset in part through the Summer Youth Employment Program sponsored by the Los Angeles County Department of Personnel and the Federal Government.

The program provided the services of 12 young men, each of whom performed 25 hours of field work a week for a two-month period.

Lake and Stream

The County Road Department and the County Sanitation District together effected repairs in the ruptured lake membrane with assistance from this department. The northern perimeter of the lake was moved southward onto the solid base of former mine trailings and away from trash filled areas. The lake was again filled in March, 1974 and again became a focal part of the garden. The continued subsidence of approxi-

mately 500 feet of the stream bed due to the rupture of the lake in November, 1973 was studied by the Sanitation District and the County Engineers with the conclusion that subsidence should be allowed to continue for several more years before corrective action is taken.

AFFILIATED SUPPORTING FOUNDATIONS

Three affiliated nonprofit supporting foundations make possible the implementation of numerous public programs that benefit and supplement the County operation and maintenance of the department.

CALIFORNIA ARBORETUM FOUNDATION

The California Arboretum Foundation gives active support to various Arboretum activities -- Public Services, Education, Research, Library, and Nurseries. Examples of their achievements in the period covered by this report follows:

As part of its continuing efforts to enlist public support of the Arboretum and its programs, the Foundation with a membership of 700 initiated a membership drive in March, 1972 with the slogan, "1,003 by '73." The figure was met two months ahead of schedule, prompting a new slogan, "2,004 by '74." This figure was also met and was followed by "3,005 by '75." New members immediately receive a packet of department brochures on gardening and environmental topics. They also receive the Foundation Newsletter, the department's quarterly magazine, Lasca Leaves, a specimen of an Arboretum plant introduction once a year and invitations to previews and special field trips.

FOTA Contest

Mindful that the Arboretum has long been a mecca for photographers and that a contest would offer challenging fun and stimulate a closer look at the garden's plantings and programs, the Foundation in October of 1974 introduced its first FOTA contest. A basic rule was that all pictures had to be taken at the Arboretum, hence the name "FOTA," an acronym for "Focus on the Arboretum." The contest was enthusiastically received by hundreds of camera fans who were to become new friends and supporters of the Arboretum while competing for twelve hundred dollars worth of prizes, ribbons, and plaques awarded to winners in various subject categories and age groups.

Fund Raising

Two important fund-raising events staged by the Foundation, with the assistance of members of the Arboretum staff, are the Queen Anne Frolic, a biennial affair held in the latter part of September, and the Baldwin Bonanza held each spring.

The Foundation presented its second Frolic on September 28, 1973. Approximately 900 guests arrived on a perfect evening to enjoy a fine barbecued beef dinner and entertainment that included tours of the historical buildings and tours of the grounds by trams and vintage cars. The affair netted $4,800.

The Baldwin Bonanza is the first of the fund-raising events conceived and developed by the California Arboretum Foundation to become an established annual attraction at the Arboretum.

The fourth Baldwin Bonanza was held on April 7, 1974. The focus was on the sale of plants which featured a number of Arboretum introductions.

Baldwin Bonanza V on April 6, 1975, was also highlighted by the sale of a large number of Arboretum plant introductions, among them Tabebuia chrysotricha (Golden Trumpet Tree), Hibiscus huegelii (Blue Hibiscus), Cassia leptophylla (Golden Medallion Tree), Stigmaphyllon affine (Orchid Vine) and a cultivar of Chorisia speciosa 'Los Angeles Beautiful,' that was selected as the tree of the year by Los Angeles Beautiful Committee. There were also raffles for patio furniture and other garden-related items that added zest to the event from which proceeds were earmarked for the Arboretum's proposed Hall of Environmental Education.

In addition to the activities already described, the Foundation provides the services listed below on a continuing basis:

A. A gift shop.

B. Publishes department's quarterly magazine Lasca Leaves, which it distributes to Foundation members and to other botanic gardens and horticultural institutions all over the world.

C. Provides volunteer workers in all Arboretum divisions: school field trip leaders, library services, research services, Information Center services, and maintenance of the Garden For All Seasons.

DESCANSO GARDENS GUILD

Through various fund-raising events, adult education classes and its program for handicapped children, the Descanso Gardens Guild gives its

energies to programs and activities that benefit the gardens and the schools and people of the community.

Following are some its achievements during the period covered by this report:

Completed in October, 1973, the remodeling of the kitchen in the Hospitality House, the 35-year-old mansion that was once the home of newspaper publisher Manchester Boddy. Following the guidelines of Guild members knowledgeable in design, the kitchen was turned into a contemporary version of the classic farmhouse kitchen, remembered for its island tables and window-sill herb pots. The renovation achieved two objectives: one, to facilitate the preparation of meals for the growing number of garden club meetings and other affairs held at the Hospitality House; and two, to provide a demonstration of how kitchen herbs and other plants grown in hanging baskets and counter-top planters can brighten the daily routine of kitchen work.

Special Events

Each year, the Guild presents many cultural attractions which win new friends for the gardens. Following is a compilation of those presented during the period covered by this report:

A. Annual Christmas Decorations Show - this is one of the biggest events of the year at Descanso Gardens. It usually runs for nine days and attracts about 20,000 people in that period. The show is held in the Hospitality House, which with its stately rooms and paneled walls provides the perfect setting for the exhibits created by professional artists and decorations and gifted amateurs.

B. Annual Concert-On-The-Lawn by the Glendale Symphony Orchestra

C. Annual Art Festival

D. Five Art Exhibits

E. Sunday afternoon concerts by musical groups from all parts of Los Angeles County.

Education Programs

Thirteen years ago, the Guild began its program to help handicapped children from schools in the surrounding communities by providing a class in gardening that would introduce them to the outdoor world of nature and the experience of growing vegetables and flowers. As the program grew, a scholarship fund was developed that would provide on-the-job training in the gardens for a selected number of older students, paying them the minimum California wage for their services.

SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN FOUNDATION

The South Coast Botanic Garden Foundation was incorporated in 1961. Like the Descanso Gardens Guild, it is governed by a Board of Trustees who hold office on a rotating basis. Membership as of July 1, 1975, was 325.

The Foundation is very active in promoting the growth of the garden through increased attendance and greater participation by the public and garden clubs in garden activities.

The Foundation is responsible for the sponsorship and presentation of the biggest annual event at the garden, the Fiesta de Flores. Combining horticultural demonstrations, plant sales, exhibits, and musical entertainment, the three-day fiesta, held early in July, attracts

thousands of new visitors each year who invariably come away amazed at the beauty of a garden built just a few years earlier over a filled-in county dump site.

Other events co-sponsored by the Foundation were:

A. Five flower shows presented by the Coasta Verde Garden Club, the Silver Spur Garden Club and the Gardeneers Garden Club.

B. A Youth Ecology Fair.

C. Starting in 1974, a two-week Christmas Holidays Exhibit featuring seasonal plant materials in wreaths and other traditional forms prepared by Foundation members.

The Foundation provides field leaders for the approximately 5,000 elementary school students who visit South Coast each year as part of their regularly scheduled school field trips. The Foundation also conducts an ongoing training program so that teachers and students will have the benefit of field leaders knowledgeable in environmental and related subjects.

The Foundation made a major contribution in May of 1975, when it contributed $20,000 to the County of Los Angeles and pledged an additional $200,000 over the next five years toward payment for a new Administrative Center.

F I N A N C I A L R E P O R T

1973 - 75

DEPARTMENTAL SUMMARY

1973 - 74

	APPROPRIATION	EXPENDITURE	BALANCE
Salaries and Wages	$ 1,605,878	$ 1,569,944	$ 35,934
Services and Supplies	195,486	164,514	30,972
Capital Outlay Equipment	26,330	26,661	(-331)
TOTAL DEPARTMENT	$ 1,827,694	$ 1,761,119	$ 66,575
Number of Budgeted Positions	147.7		

1974 - 75

Salaries and Wages	$ 1,698,965	$ 1,664,553	$ 34,403
Services and Supplies	199,957	231,827	(-31,870)
Capital Outlay Equipment	21,310	18,956	2,354
TOTAL DEPARTMENT	$ 1,920,223	$ 1,915,336	$ 4,887
Number of Budgeted Positions	149.2		